

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

5 JUNE 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Cuba

a. Early excerpts from Fidel Castro's television report to the people--a three hour hodge podge of answers to journalists' questions--reveal no startling facts or momentous decisions.

b. Castro said Cuba must help build Communist society as part of the socialist camp. He said "we must understand...the Chinese," but he emphasized Khrushchev's efforts for "unity in the socialist camp."

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d. Recruiting of Western technicians is continuing

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(Cont'd)

50X1

h. Clearing weather permitted photography of Remedios and Artemisa on 2 June and Santiago de las Vegas and Torrens headquarters on 3 June adequate to determine that no significant changes had occurred. Holguin has not been covered since last Tuesday. Today's flights have been cancelled because of bad weather.

2. Laos

a. Souvanna has rejected the conditions Souphannouvong attached to the proposal for a Plaine des Jarres meeting, but has agreed in principle to meet. He apparently takes Souphannouvong's willingness to talk as an encouraging sign.

b. The Communists are using the interim period to strengthen their capabilities for moves against Kong Le and Phoumi, first in the Plaine and now in south-central Laos.

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3. South Vietnam

a. President Diem is taking positive steps to find a solution to Buddhist grievances.

b. He has appointed an investigating commission headed by Vice President Tho with Secretary for State Security Thuan [redacted] and Interior Minister Luong, as members. It was in session yesterday afternoon.

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50X1

(Cont'd)

c. Unofficial emissaries are in contact with the Buddhist leaders, and the President's brother Nhu will meet the leaders from Hue. The President has not ruled out the possibility that he may visit Hue.

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e. A competent investigative commission has flown to Hue to determine whether chemical agents other than tear gas were actually used. [redacted] Hue authorities were certain only tear gas was used, but US Consul Helble personally observed blistering on victims. This could have been caused by a French type chemical agent contained in clear glass vials as reported, or could have been the result of burns from an exploding tear gas canister.

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4. Congo

a. Kasavubu and Adoula have invited Sekou Toure to meet on the Congo River today to discuss Gizenga's future.

(Cont'd)

b. Touré is pushing for the release of Gizenga and his removal to Guinea for rehabilitation as one move to further African unity--and probably his own image as an all-African leader as well.

c. Adoula is under considerable pressure from some Congolese politicians to release Gizenga and may view Touré's plan as an acceptable way out.

d. Mobutu may still prove sticky. In January he claimed Gizenga was an army prisoner and the army would not agree to release him.

NOTES

- A. Iraq - the Kurds The Iraqi Government is throwing the gauntlet to the Kurds--they must accept the decentralization law to be issued shortly or be attacked. Our Baghdad Embassy feels the Kurds, who were not consulted on the law, will reject it. Both the Kurds and the Central Government have been preparing for a fight.
- B. USSR Khrushchev is throwing his people a carrot once more in the form of promises of an improved standard of living. Guidelines for the 1964-65 plan give special attention to the chemical industry, particularly in its role of supporter of agriculture and consumers goods industries.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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